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PAGE 1/12 * RCVD AT 4/23/2004 1:10:19 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/2 * DNIS:7469133 * CSID:7322490063 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-04

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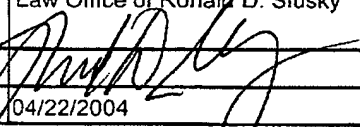
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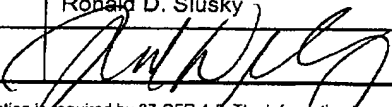
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/328,667
	Filing Date	06/09/1999
	First Named Inventor	Radhika R. Roy
	Art Unit	2663
	Examiner Name	Duc T. Duong
	Attorney Docket Number	113394
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		11

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required to Deposit Account of Ronald D. Slusky, Attorney at Law, Account No. 502,186	

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Law Office of Ronald D. Slusky
Signature	
Date	04/22/2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/328,667
Inventor(s) : Radhika R. Roy
Filed : June 9, 1999
Art Unit : 2663
Examiner : Duc T. Duong
Docket No. : 113394
Title : System and Method for Gatekeeper-to-Gatekeeper
Communication

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON D.C. 20231

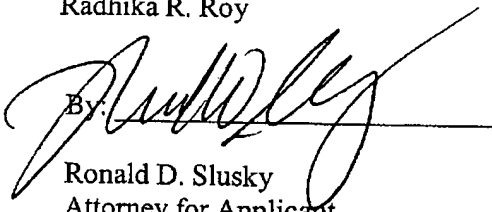
SIR:

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPLY

Applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for reply to the Office Action dated 01/12/2004 for one month from 04/12/2004 to 05/12/2004.

Please charge the deposit account of Ronald D. Slusky, Attorney, Deposit Account No. **502,186** in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency of overpayment should be charged or credited to the above-identified deposit account.

Radhika R. Roy

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Date: 04/22/2004

Appl. No. 09/328,667

Attorney Docket No.: 113394

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

PATENT APPLICATION

Application No. : 09/328,667
Inventor(s) : Radhika R. Roy
Filed : June 9, 1999
Art Unit : 2663
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Docket No. : 113394
Title : System and Method for Gatekeeper-to-Gatekeeper
Communication

**COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action of 01/12/2004.

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Attorney Docket No.: 113394

Listing of Claims:

- Fig. 4
1. (Previously Presented) A method for communication employing a plurality of gatekeepers, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a request for information at a first gatekeeper;^{420b}
 - determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;
 - sending the request via at least one intermediate gatekeeper to a second gatekeeper^{420c} if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper;^{420d-f}
 - receiving the requested information from the second gatekeeper via the at least one intermediate gatekeeper wherein a hierarchical level associated with said first gatekeeper is different from a hierarchical level associated with said intermediate gatekeeper; and
 - sending the requested information to a third gatekeeper wherein the first gatekeeper and the third gatekeeper are of a same hierarchical level and located in a same domain and wherein said request was received from said third gatekeeper.^{420a}
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
- storing the received information in at least one of the first, intermediate and second gatekeepers.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said sending the request includes the steps of:
- determining a next gatekeeper in a gatekeeper-level path to the requested information.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes an application address.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes resource information.

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the information.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:
determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and
if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for communication, the apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to said processor, said memory storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor for performing the steps of:
receiving a request for information at a first gatekeeper;
determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;
sending the request via an intermediate gatekeeper to a second gatekeeper if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper;

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receiving the requested information from the second gatekeeper via the intermediate gatekeeper wherein a hierarchical level associated with said first gatekeeper is different from a hierarchical level associated with said intermediate gatekeeper; and

sending the requested information to a third gatekeeper wherein the first gatekeeper and the third gatekeeper are of a same hierarchical level and located in a same domain and wherein said request was received from said third gatekeeper.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the instructions further perform the step of:

storing the received information in at least one of the gatekeepers.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein sending the request includes the step of determining a next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the requested information.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the information includes an application address.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the information includes resource information.

16. Canceled.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the information.

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18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, said memory storing further instructions adapted to be run on said processor, said further instructions comprising:

determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and
if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.

21. (Previously Presented) A medium for communications, the communication using a plurality of gatekeepers at different hierarchical levels, said medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor for performing the steps of:

receiving a request for information at a first gatekeeper;
determining whether the information is known by the first gatekeeper;
sending the request via an intermediate gatekeeper to a second gatekeeper if the information is not known by the first gatekeeper;
receiving the requested information from the second gatekeeper via the intermediate gatekeeper wherein the first gatekeeper and the intermediate gatekeeper are at different hierarchical levels; and
sending the requested information to a third gatekeeper wherein the first gatekeeper and the third gatekeeper are of a same hierarchical level and located in a same domain and wherein the request was received from the third gatekeeper.

22. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, wherein the instructions further perform the step of:

storing the received information in one of the gatekeepers.

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23. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 21, wherein said sending the request includes the steps of:

determining a next gatekeeper in the gatekeeper-level path to the requested information.

24. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the information includes an application address.

25. (Original) The medium of claim 21, wherein the information includes resource information.

26. Canceled.

27. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 22, storing further information adapted to be executed by a processor, the further information comprising:

attempting to connect to a called entity using information contained in the information.

28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 23, storing further information adapted to be executed by a processor, the further information comprising:

determining whether a hop-count field has been set to zero; and

if the hop-count field has been set to zero, dropping the received information.

29. (Original) The medium of claim 23, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-zone gatekeeper.

30. (Original) The medium of claim 23, where the first gatekeeper is an inter-domain gatekeeper.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-25 and 27-30 remain pending in this application.

The final office action appears to have repeated verbatim the rejection set forth in the Office action of 07/24/2003.

That rejection had advanced the view that it would have been obvious to modify Galasso to put the US master gatekeeper and a zone gatekeeper at the same hierarchical level. (Office action of 07/24/2003 page 3, lines 8-12.) Applicant had responded to that office action in a "Response To Office Action" dated 10/17/2003 pointing out why that modification would not have been obvious.

The most recent, final Office action counters applicant's arguments by pointing to a statement in Galasso at col. 3, lines 52-53, indicating that in an embodiment of Galasso, "a master gatekeeper queries another master gatekeeper to resolve an address." (Final Office action, page 5.)

The rejection is again respectfully traversed, for at least two reasons.

Firstly, the Office action has not advanced any reason why applicant was incorrect in arguing that it would not have been obvious to put a master gatekeeper and a zone gatekeeper at the same hierarchical level. Thus applicant respectfully renews those arguments.

Secondly, it would appear that the Office action, in citing the passage at col. 3, lines 52-53 of Galasso, is advancing a different theory of how Galasso anticipates applicant's claims. In particular, as noted above, the original rejection was based on the theory that it would have been obvious to put the master gatekeeper and zone gatekeeper at the same hierarchical level, thereby allegedly anticipating the recitation in, for example, claim 1 that the "first" and "third" gatekeepers are at the same hierarchical level.

It now appears, however, that in citing col. 3, lines 52-53 of Galasso, the Office action is pointing to two master gatekeepers as corresponding to applicant's recited "first" and "third" gatekeepers.

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It is respectfully pointed out that the cited passage in Galasso stating that “a master gatekeeper queries another master gatekeeper to resolve an address” is clearly referring to the possibility that one master gatekeeper in one domain, such as US gatekeeper 550 in the US administrative domain (hereinafter “US domain”), can query another master gatekeeper in another domain, such as Europe gatekeeper 560 in the Europe administrative domain (hereinafter “Europe domain”). Applicant agrees with the examiner that Galasso’s US and Europe master gatekeepers are at the same hierarchical level. However, this fact in isolation does not mean that applicant’s claims can be said to read on Galasso.

In particular, applicant’s claims were rejected based on the theory that Galasso’s Europe gatekeeper 560 corresponds to applicants recited second gatekeeper, not to applicant’s recited third gatekeeper, as the Office action now seems to be implying. Thus if one of Galasso’s master gatekeepers 550 and 560 is going to be said to correspond to applicant’s recited “third” gatekeeper, then what in Galasso is going to correspond to the “second” gatekeeper?

It is also noted that applicant’s claims recite that the first and third gatekeepers are “in a same domain.” By contrast, the two master gatekeepers in Galasso are in different domains—namely the US domain and the Europe domain.

In order for Galasso to anticipate applicant’s claims, there would have to be some teaching in Galasso that would show, or render obvious, the provision of another master gatekeeper within (say) the US domain at the same hierarchical level, with that other master gatekeeper making queries of master gatekeeper 550 (as is the case, for example, with applicant’s gatekeepers 420a and 420b shown in FIG. 4). However, there is no such showing in Galasso. Nor is there any basis on which to assert that it would be obvious. ~~In particular, the mere fact that Galasso discloses two gatekeepers at the same hierarchical level~~ but in different domains that make requests of one another through an intermediate gatekeeper does not render obvious the inclusion of two gatekeepers at the same hierarchical level and within the same domain making requests of one another. Indeed, such an approach runs counter to the strictly hierarchical architecture that lies at the heart of Galasso’s disclosure.

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To repeat what is stated above, the passage at col. 3, lines 52-53 of Galasso is clearly referring to Galasso's two master gatekeepers 550 and 560, which are in different domains. Thus Galasso's two master gatekeepers cannot be said to correspond to applicant's recited first and third gatekeepers because the claims require the first and third gatekeepers to be in the same domain. Nor is there any basis to assert that it would be obvious, based on Galasso's teaching of a strictly hierarchical architecture, to provide two or more gatekeepers within a particular domain that query each other.

Moreover, any assertion based on col. 3, lines 52-53 of Galasso that the two master gatekeepers in Galasso correspond to applicant's recited first and third gatekeepers is inconsistent with the rejection itself because, as applicant understands the rejection, it is based on a reading that makes Galasso's master gatekeepers correspond to applicant's first and second gatekeepers, not applicant's first and third gatekeepers.

Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully,
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